United Nations S/PRST/2008/11

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 April 2008
English
Original: English/French

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5880th meeting of the Security Council, held on 29 April 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Côte d'Ivoire", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls that it endorsed the Ouagadougou Political Agreement as well as its Supplementary Agreements.

"The Security Council warmly welcomes the approval by the Ivorian authorities of the proposal from the Independent Electoral Commission to organize presidential elections on 30 November 2008. It underlines that this announcement, supported by all Ivorian parties, and the signing by President Laurent GBAGBO of related decrees, constitute an important step forward. The Security Council encourages the Ivorian parties to redouble their efforts to meet this commitment, and the international community to bring continued support to this effect.

"The Security Council commends the Facilitator, President Blaise COMPAORE of Burkina Faso, for his continued efforts to support the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular through the Ouagadougou Political Agreement follow up mechanisms. This support to the actions of President Laurent GBAGBO and Prime Minister Guillaume SORO, with the active engagement of SRSG CHOI Young-Jin, has been instrumental towards achieving the establishment of a consensus among all political parties to hold presidential elections in 2008.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Côte d'Ivoire, and recalls that he shall certify that all stages of the electoral process provide all the necessary guarantees for the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in accordance with international standards, consistent with paragraph 9 of Resolution 1795 (2008). It fully supports in particular the five criteria framework elaborated by Mr. CHOI Young-Jin in this regard and welcomed by the Ivorian parties.

"The Security Council welcomes the visit of the Secretary-General to Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire (22-24 April) and is encouraged by the signing, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, of a Code of Good Conduct for elections by all political parties.

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"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's report dated 15 April 2008 (S/2008/250). It encourages the Ivorian parties to build on the ongoing mobile courts' process for the identification of the Ivorian population and registration of voters. The Security Council looks forward to the publication of the electoral list as a crucial step in the electoral process.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties to make concrete progress to promote political and security stability, in particular in the context of the forthcoming presidential elections, in such key areas as the disarmament and dismantling of militias, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the storage of weapons, the unification and restructuring of defence and security forces and the full restoration of State authority throughout the country.

"The Security Council takes note with appreciation of the support of bilateral and multilateral donors, in particular ECOWAS, AU and the EU. It calls upon donors and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to make further efforts to finance the electoral process, including through the trust fund established by UNDP to that effect, and calls upon the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire to engage fully with the donors. It also encourages the international community to enhance its financial support for the facilitation.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation for the role played by the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), supported by the French forces, in contributing to bring the security needed by the peace process and the logistical support required for the preparation of the elections. It welcomes the assessment made by the Secretary-General on the troop level of UNOCI in his report (S/2008/250). The Security Council will review by 30 July 2008 the mandates of UNOCI and French forces which support it, as well as the level of troops of UNOCI, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Resolution 1795 (2008).

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed of the situation including on the logistical support that UNOCI will provide for the elections."